(c) Union Government has not suggested any amount of remuneration for the principal office holders of mosques to the State Governments/Union-Territory Administrations.

(d) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

The 15-Point Programme for Minorities is implemented in all the States and Union-Territories. The implementation of this programme is monitored at Central, State and District levels. The Ministry of Welfare acts as the Chief nodal agency for coordinating and monitoring of the programme. Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal Ministry for monitoring of Points No. 1 to 7. Similarly, the other Central Ministries are the nodal agencies for coordinating and monitoring different points concerning them. At the State level, the programme is monitored by the State level Committee, the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary. At the district level, the programme is monitored by the District Magistrate/Deputy Commissioner.

The progress of implementation of 15 Point Programme, on the basis of quarterly reports received from the concerned Central Ministries and the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations as follows :-

(i) The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued guidelines to the States/UTs indicating the steps for maintenance of communal harmony and providing speedy relief to the victims of communal riots.

(ii) Department of Personnel and Training has issued guidelines for inclusion of a minority member on the Selection Boards/Committees where recruitment is done for 10 or more vacancies in respect of Group C and D services under Central Government including Public Sector Undertakings. The reports submitted by States/UTs reveal that Selection Committees have been made representative in States/UTs as well.

(iii) Pre-Examination coaching scheme for weaker sections based on economic criteria has been introduced for candidates belonging to minority category also, with an income ceiling of Rs. 24,000/- per annum for preparing them to compete effectively on equal terms with others in the examinations leading to recruitment and admission in professional courses.

(iv) National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation was established for providing loan assistance at concessional rates to the backward sections among minorities through the State Channelising Agencies for promotion of self-employment ventures among these communities.

(v) Scheme of multi-sectoral development plans has been launched in 41 minority concentration districts for carrying out a survey to identify the activities in which minority communities are actively involved with a view to ascertain the requirements for carrying out these activities and the means through which they can be arranged.

(vi) For the promotion of educational development of minorities the scheme of Area Intensive programme and Modernisation of Madarsa Education are being implemented by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

[Translation]

Ban on New Recruitment

5523. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has recently announced certain policies about retrenchment of employees and ban on new recruitment;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) its impact on the labourers and employees ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 provides certain measures of protection to the Workers in the event of lay-off, retrenchment and closure. As per the Government's common approach to policy matters and minimum programme relating to labour no change has been envisaged in the matter relating to retrenchment.

As regards ban on new recruitment the requisite information is being collected.

[English]

SC/ST Employees in VSN

5524. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that employees belonging to SCs/STs are harassed by the Chairman, Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited ;

(b) if so, the complaints received in this regard during each of the last three years, till date; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No such complaint has been received by the Department.